



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,721	09/25/2003	Kiyotaka Ohara	116530	6410
25944	7590	11/16/2007		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850			EXAMINER AVELLINO, JOSEPH E	
			ART UNIT 2143	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/16/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/669,721	Applicant(s) OHARA, KIYOTAKA	
	Examiner Joseph E. Avellino	Art Unit 2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-31 are presented for examination; claims 1, 21, 23-31 independent.

Specification

2. Applicant's submission of a new title has been considered. The Objection to the specification has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. The rejection under this heading is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Applicant's arguments are persuasive. The rejection is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al. (US 2001/0046065) (hereinafter Furukawa) in view of Chen (US 2003/0097425) and further in view of Lo et al. (USPN 6,122,483) (hereinafter Lo).

6. Referring to claim 1, Furukawa discloses a data transmitting system for transmitting data to be processed through a TCP/IP network (i.e. network 2) to which a plurality of devices including a first device and a second device (i.e. host computer and printers) are connected, the data to be processed being transmitted by a first device (i.e. host) and received by the second device (i.e. printer),

said first device including:

an identification information obtaining system that transmits data using a first address (i.e. a multicast address) which does not identify a destination to obtain identification information of the plurality of devices except said first device (i.e. broadcasting a search condition to all printers) (¶'s 46, 48),

said second device including:

an identification information transmitting system that transmits second data containing the identification information of the second device through the network using a second address in response to the first data being transmitted (i.e. response packet with its own information is sent to the host computer 1) (Figure 2; ¶ 94),

said first device further including:

a data transmitting system that transmits data to be processed through a network using a third multicast address so that the data to be processed is received by the second device which is one of the devices which send identification information to the identification information

transmitting system (i.e. host computer 1 sends a JoinGroup Multicast message to selected printers, and then sends the print data to the selected printers via the multicast group) (Figures 5, 6a-e; ¶'s 108-110); said second device further including :

a data receiving system that receives the data processed transmitted by the data transmitting system of the first device (i.e. "when a printer receives the multicast print packet") (¶ 109).

Furukawa does not explicitly state that the second address (the search response) is done using a second multicast address, rather that a response is given. In analogous art, Chen discloses another network device searching method which sends out a multicast/broadcast message to a second device and the second device responds by sending identification information using a multicast channel (i.e. first device multicasts a WHO_IS_ASDA message to the subnet, the ASDA responds on the multicast channel with a "here I am" message) (¶ 93). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Furukawa with Chen since Furukawa discloses that the response is sent back to the host computer, however does not clarify as to whether this response is sent via multicast or unicast (¶ 94). This would provide sufficient motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to find other systems which respond to broadcast inquires, thereby finding the system of Chen, thereby providing an efficient method of discovering devices outside of its own subnet (Chen: ¶ 11).

Furukawa-Chen do not explicitly disclose that the first device explicitly indicates the second multicast address to the second device. In analogous art, Lo discloses

another multicast data distribution system wherein the first device (i.e. NCC 102) transmits to the second device an indication of the second multicast address (i.e. channel) and the second device uses this information to respond to the first device (i.e. recipient sends an acknowledgement) (e.g. abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute the multicast transport determination system of Furukawa-Chen to include the multicast channel selection system in order for the system of Furukawa-Chen to realize the benefits of Lo, namely minimizing the channel resources consumed when acknowledging communications (col. 2, lines 15-20).

7. Claim 2 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

8. Referring to claim 4, Furukawa discloses a selecting mechanism which selects one of the devices which transmit the identification information to said identification information obtaining system (i.e. the user selects a printer of the responding printers) (Figure 3b); wherein the identification information transmitting section transmits the selection information through the network using the third multicast address (i.e. the print data is sent using a multicast address) (Figures 6a-e); wherein the second device is the selected device (i.e. printers which are selected by the user) (Figure 3b).

9. Referring to claim 5, Furukawa discloses incorporating the identification of the first device into the data (i.e. it is inherent that TCP/IP includes a source address in every packet which is sent on a network, and therefore would include an indication of

Art Unit: 2143

the IP address of the sender of the packet) (Figure 6a-e); and the second device incorporates the identification information of first device into second data (i.e. the printers acknowledge the receipt of the multicasted packet which inherently includes identification information of the first device) (Figure 6b).

10. Referring to claim 6, Furukawa discloses the identification information is a device name and IP address (i.e. IP, Name) (Figure 2, note responses to the broadcast inquiry).

11. Referring to claims 7 and 8, Furukawa-Chen disclose the invention substantively as described in claim 2. Furukawa-Chen do not specifically disclose the actual multicast addresses, however one of ordinary skill in the art would be capable of modifying the system of Furukawa-Chen to provide any multicast address for any of the three multicast addresses. By this rationale, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Furukawa-Chen to provide three different multicast addresses or use the same multicast address in order to tailor the system of Furukawa-Chen to the user's capabilities, thereby conserving addresses for resource constrained networks, or to efficiently separate the packets over multicast channels based on request packet type.

12. Referring to claim 9, Furukawa discloses that all the devices configured to be the second device receive the request using the first multicast address (i.e. a broadcast request is sent to all printers) (Figure 2).

13. Referring to claim 10, Furukawa discloses at least some of the devices configured to be the second device receive data using the third multicast address (i.e. the multicast group used to multicast print data to the printers) (Figures 6a-e).

14. Referring to claim 11, Furukawa discloses that only the first device receives the broadcast response from the printers (Figure 2), however does not disclose this address is a second multicast address. In analogous art, Chen discloses another network device searching method which sends out a multicast/broadcast message to a second device and the second device responds by sending identification information using a multicast channel (i.e. first device multicasts a WHO_IS_ASDA message to the subnet, the ASDA responds on the multicast channel with a "here I am" message) (§ 93). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Furukawa with Chen since Furukawa discloses that the response is sent back to the host computer, however does not clarify as to whether this response is sent via multicast or unicast (§ 94). This would provide sufficient motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to find other systems which respond to broadcast inquiries, thereby finding the system of Chen, thereby providing an efficient method of discovering devices outside of its own subnet (Chen: § 11).

15. Referring to claim 12, Furukawa-Chen inherently discloses a second multicast determination system, otherwise there would be no second multicast address.
16. Referring to claim 13, Furukawa discloses the second device transmits an acknowledgement of the receipt of the data to be processed using a fourth multicast address and the first device receives the data (i.e. host sends multicast data to printers, which respond with an ACK) (Figures 6a-e).
17. Claim 14 is rejected for similar reasons as in claim 12 as stated above.
18. Referring to claim 15, Furukawa discloses the first device and second device join a multicast address group (Figure 5).
19. Claims 16-31 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

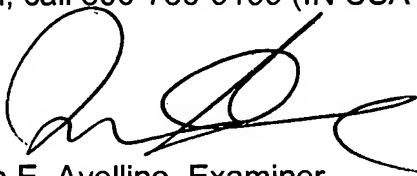
Conclusion

21. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph E. Avellino whose telephone number is (571) 272-3905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joseph E. Avellino, Examiner
November 2, 2007